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SC CONSTITUTION BENCH TO GO PAPERLESS, IN A FIRST

The bench of Justice D Y Chandrachud to go paperless as it hears Centre vs Delhi control of services dispute

LAWYERS TOLD NOT TO BRING BULKY CASE FILES

Senior lawyers have been told that no bulky case files will be allowed in the courtroom. "Everybody will have a common scanned copy. It will make life easy for all of us," Justice Chandrachud said. He directed the registry to scan all the relevant material, including books, case laws and written submissions by lawyers and circulate to all of them

A STEADY MOVE TO PAPERLESS MODE

- The bench asked advocates appearing for the Delhi government and the Centre to get their compilations ready and submit them to the court master for scanning and circulation
- The Hyderabad High Court opened India's first-ever e-court in 2016. The Kerala HC has also cut down on the use of paper

Sept 27

WHEN THE FIVE-JUDGE BENCH WILL FIX THE TIMELINE FOR THE HEARING

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TRICHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Tax raids now on top policy think tank, NGO, trust

Searches on at Centre for Policy Research, Oxfam and Independent and Public-Spirited Media Foundation that funds media platforms

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE I-T Department on Wednesday conducted searches on the premises of a public policy think tank, an international NGO, and a trust that funds prominent media platforms.

A dozen IT officials were at the office of Delhi-based independent think tank Centre for Policy Research (CPR) till late evening. Searches were also conducted at the Delhi offices of international NGO Oxfam, and the Bengaluru-based Independent and Public-Spirited Media Foundation (IPSMF) that funds leading news portals such as *The Wire*, *The Print*, *The Caravan*, *Swarajya*, etc. Employees of these organisations were not allowed to leave and asked to keep phones switched off during the raids. There has been no statement from the I-T Department on the reasons for the raids, but sources said it is looking at the balance sheets to check the receipt of funds using permissions under the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act.

Established in 1973, the CPR is one of the respected think tanks, which had public intellectual Pratap Bhanu Mehta as its previous head, and is currently headed by educationist Meenakshi Gopinath. According to its website CPR's mission is "asking the relevant questions and building evidence on key policy challenges in India". The IPSMF, functioning as a public charitable trust since 2015, says on its website that the "struggle to survive and sustain has made journalism susceptible to pressures from various quarters – from advertisers and corporates, from owners, from politicians, from government and even from society itself. The need to support independent and public-spirited journalism has arisen in this context. If the market does not support a free media, then non-profit funding has to be made available to create an ecosystem of independent media entities."

Among the donors of IPSMF are Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives, Pirojsha Godrej Foundation, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies, Rohinton and Anu Aga Family Discretionary No 2 Trust, RDA Holdings, Manipal Education and Medical Group India Pvt Ltd, Piramal Enterprises Ltd, etc.

Oxfam's home page highlights the Assam floods and lists its actions to provide relief. Its website says it is "a movement of people working together to stop rising inequality."

Taxman searches unrecognised parties

The I-T department also conducted raids in over 110 locations across the country in cases related to alleged tax evasion, FCRA violation and illicit funding of registered unrecognised political parties

I-T raids Manipal edu institution, hospitals in Bengaluru, Udupi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru, Udupi

THE Income Tax (I-T) department on Wednesday carried out search and seizure operations at various places including hospitals in Bengaluru and Udupi belonging to the Manipal Group.

The taxmen raided the office of the Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) in Manipal in Udupi district and Manipal Hospitals in Bengaluru. MAHE is owned by Dr Ranjan R Pai, Chairman of MAHE Trust. The MAHE campus of Manipal is a sprawling one and is a globally engaged educational institution having a partnership with more than 220 leading universities across the globe. More than 28,000 students from 57 different countries study here.

According to sources, IT officials arrived at the Edu Building of MAHE around 6 am and began the search for documents on the fourth floor of the Edu Building, where the finance department is housed. **P5**

BRIBERY CASE

HC restores pvt complaint against BSY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN fresh trouble for former CM and BJP leader B S Yeddyurappa, the Karnataka High Court on Wednesday restored a private complaint against him, his son — BJP state vice-president B Y Vijayendra — some of their family members, Cooperation Minister S T Somashekar and some bureaucrats over charges of accepting ₹12.5 crore in cash as bribe to get a project sanctioned to Ramalingam Construction Company by the Bangalore Development Authority.

Observing that there is no need for previous sanction for the special court to order an investigation under Section 156(3) of the CrPC, Justice S Sunil Dutt Yadav passed the order, partly allowing the petition filed by social activist TJ Abraham challenging the rejection of the private complaint by the special court on July 8, 2021, under Section 17 A of the PC Act, which is required to carry out investigation after an FIR if registered against public servants.

Noting that the question of insisting on sanction for prosecution at the stage of passing the order for investigation based on a private complaint would not arise and therefore dismissal of the complaint itself on such ground is impermissible, the court also directed the special court to proceed from the stage of presentation of the private complaint filed under the provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act and IPC against all the accused. **P4**

The flooded Channasandra bridge that connects Koraluru village to Bengaluru

River in spate, cuts off e-store godowns

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

AREAS downstream of Hoskote panchayat are getting flooded, cutting off connectivity between Bengaluru and Koraluru village panchayat in Hoskote taluk which houses warehouses of large brands like Big Basket, Flipkart and Amazon.

This has occurred as Dakshina Pinakini river is overflowing, causing the Channasandra bridge — a prime link connecting the panchayat limits with Bengaluru — to be submerged. Locals as well as those who have to visit the warehouses are now stranded or unable to commute. The river is said to be overflowing as Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) released large quantities of water downstream from Varthur and Bellandur lakes, to de-water flooded areas in Mahadevapura, Bellandur, Varthur, Sarjapura, Whitefield and other surrounding areas in Bengaluru city.

The area falls under panchayat limits and is under Bengaluru Rural district administration. It is the last point of BBMP limits. Since transport has been completely cut off, schools in the area have declared holidays for offline classes. Due to water stagnation, many workers are also stranded in the warehouses.

The river filled to the brim due to continuous rainfall. The lakes in the area connecting Sarjapur, Hoskote and surrounding areas are also filled up to the brim.

"We have been stranded in our homes since the last two days. Channasandra bridge is the only link for us to commute to Bengaluru. The other road, Hoskote road, is also closed because of flooding. The road on the river bridge has become a lower gradient because of rampant illegal sand dumping near the bridge for six months. Now with excessive water being released down the valleys from Bengaluru, coupled with the river swelling up and the rain, the river is overflowing and there is flooding. We have had no help from any government agencies since the last two days," said Ramana M, a resident of Koraluru village. **P5**

Rahul rips BJP, begins yatra from Kanniyakumari

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kanniyakumari

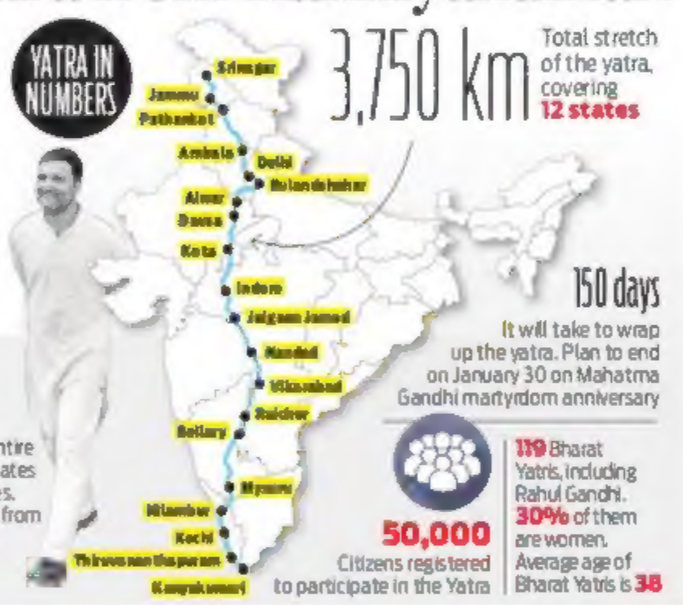
INDIA is heading towards disaster amid its worst-ever economic crisis and peak unemployment rate under BJP rule, warned Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at a public meeting as part of the party's Bharat Jodo Yatra that was launched here on Wednesday.

Rahul alleged that the Tricolour was under attack from the BJP and RSS, which are dividing people in the name of religion and language, just like the East India Company did to plunder their resources, adding a handful of large companies are now controlling the country.

"They control the entire nation from airports to ports to telecom and other sectors. PM Narendra Modi cannot function for a single day without their support," he alleged. "Unfortunately the media are fully controlled. That is why on TV you would never see unemployment or price rise but only the image of the prime minister," he sascastically said. Rahul said the Tricolour its more than a piece of cloth. CONTINUED ON: P8

FOUR Categories of participants

(1) Bharat Yatris, who will walk the entire stretch. (2) Atithi Yatris from other states who can participate on some stretches. (3) Pradesh Yatris comprising leaders from states where the yatra passes by. (4) Volunteer Yatris made up of common people who want to join in



TEARFUL ADIEU

(Top) CM Basavaraj Bommai pays respects to his cabinet colleague Umesh Katti at Bellad Bagewadi in Belagavi district on Wednesday; (left) Bommai hands over the Tricolour to Katti's wife Sheela. Katti was accorded a state funeral at his farm in the village **P4**

Because after
75 years,
we still need
to free speech.

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NO TIME FOR RETIREMENT

At 106, he wins union poll for 61st time

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

THEY say age is just a number. Meet Kanhaiya Lal Gupta. At 106, he was elected to the post of general secretary of North Eastern Railway Mazdoor Union (NERMU) for a whopping 61st time.

The centenarian hails from Gorakhpur and is still active in the trade union. Members of the NERMU are preparing to get his name entered in the Limca Book of Records and Guinness Book as the world's oldest active trade union leader. Ask him what keeps him going and Gupta says, discipline and the "inspiration and moral strength" he draws from his past association with social activist Jayaprakash Narayan. He says he gets energised when he finds himself in the middle of NERMU members. "NERMU office is my only residence and NERMU members are my family," he adds.

Gupta joined the Railways in 1946 and was soon associated with NERMU, contesting its general secretary election every year. He retired in 1981 but continued to be the voice of NERMU members. During his career, Gupta was dismissed from service four times and was even sent to jail once for about a month. But this did not stop him from pursuing his trade union activities.

NERMU members say he has a sharp memory and has a tried and tested routine he follows without fail. It involves getting up early, working through the day and sleeping around midnight. "He eats two *chappatis* with a bit of dal twice a day with no spices," a NREMU member says.

Hijab: Right to dress also means right to undress, asks SC

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

THE hearing of pleas challenging Karnataka High Court's verdict on refusing to lift the ban on hijab in state's educational institutions took an interesting turn in the Supreme Court on Wednesday when Justice Hemant Gupta, the presiding judge of the bench, enquired if the right to dress as a fundamental right would also include right to undress.

"You can't take it to illogical ends. Will the right to dress also mean the right to undress," the judge asked, questioning senior advocate Devdat Kamat's submission that the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression includes the right to dress since the word expression has a "wide import". **P10**